

Policy Relevant to:	All Team members, Educators & families
Procedure:	Adventure Patch Infectious Diseases Procedure
Last Reviewed:	April 2025
Next Review:	April 2027
ECS National Law:	S172, S174(2)(a)
ECS National Regulations:	r12, r77, r83- r90, r92, r93, r162, r168, r170, r173, r175(2)(c)
NQS:	2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2

Rationale

The National Quality Standard requires early childhood education and care services to implement specific strategies to minimise the spread of infectious illness and maintain a healthy environment for all children, staff, educators and families.

The spread of infections in the early childhood environment is facilitated by microbial contamination of the environment, as well as the greater exposure to young children who are still developing hygienic behaviours and habits.

Adventure Patch will minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases by adhering to all recommended guidelines from relevant government authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases, promoting practices that reduce the transmission of infection, ensuring the exclusion of sick children and educators, supporting child immunisation, and implementing effective hygiene practices.

Adventure Patch will provide up-to-date information and advice to parents, families, educators and team members sourced from the *Australian Government Department of Health, Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)* and State Ministry of Health about infectious diseases as required. Recommendations from the Health Department will be strictly adhered to at all times.

Purpose

Children encounter many other children and adults within the Adventure Patch services environment, which can result in the contraction of infectious illnesses. Adventure Patch has a duty of care to ensure that children, families, educators, team members and visitors of our services are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of operation. We aim to manage illnesses and prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout our care environments.

This policy and the *Infectious Diseases Procedure* communicates clear directions and guidance about protocols and actions to be followed to avoid adversely affecting the safety and health of children, other staff members and visitors to the service. A simple, safe and effective way of protecting individuals and others within the community against harmful diseases is immunisation.

Implementation

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, Adventure Patch must ensure policies and procedures are in place in relation to dealing with infectious diseases. (ACECQA, August 2021).

Adventure Patch is committed to minimising the spread of infectious diseases and viruses by implementing recommendations as stated in the [Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services \(6th Edition\)](#) developed by the Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council and advice provided from the AHPPC.

Adventure Patch is guided by decisions regarding exclusion periods and notification of infectious diseases by the *Australian Government- Department of Health* and local Public Health Units in our jurisdiction, as per the *Public Health Act*.

Recommendations for managing positive cases of COVID-19 in early education and care is provided by the *Tasmanian Department of Health*.

The need for exclusion and the length of time a person is excluded from Adventure Patch services depends on:

- How easily the infection can spread.
- How long the person is likely to be infectious.
- The severity of the infectious disease or illness.

Definition of Infectious Disease

In relation to a participating jurisdiction, it means an infectious disease that is designated under a law of that jurisdiction or by a health authority (however described) as a disease that would require a person with the disease to be excluded from an education and care service (Definitions- National Regulations).

Preventing Infectious Diseases

Children enter education and care services when their immune systems are still developing. They have not been exposed to many common germs and therefore, are susceptible to bacteria that may cause infections. Given the close physical contact children have with other children in early childhood and care, it is very easy for infectious diseases and illnesses to spread through normal daily activities, as germs can be picked up directly from an infected person or from the environment. It is important to understand that an infected person may not show any signs or symptoms of illness.

Adventure Patch services will implement rigorous hygienic practices to limit the spread of illness and infectious diseases, including:

- Immunisation - for children and adults.
- Effective hand washing hygiene.
- Respiratory hygiene - cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Appropriate use of gloves and other PPE.

- Exclusion of children, educators or staff when they are unwell or displaying symptoms of an infectious disease or virus.
- Effective environmental cleaning, including toys, resources and bedding.
- Encouraging use of the outdoor environment.
- Requesting parents and visitors to wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer upon arrival and departure at services.
- Ensuring adequate ventilation.
- Encouraging children, educators or staff to seek medical attention if they show symptoms of an infectious disease or virus (including covid-19).

Resources

[Gastro Pack NSW Health](#)

[Common cold fact sheet](#)

[Exclusion for common or concerning conditions](#)

NSW Health [Stopping the spread of childhood infections factsheet.](#)

Pregnancy Birth and Baby. [Cytomegalovirus \(CMV\) during pregnancy.](#)

[RSV Fact Sheet](#)

[Time Out Keeping your child and other kids healthy!](#) (Queensland Government)

Time Out Brochure [Why do I need to keep my child at home?](#)

Related Policies

Administration of Medication Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Bottle Safety and Preparation Policy	Medical Conditions Policy
Child Safe Environment Policy	Nappy Change and Toileting Policy
Code of Conduct	Physical Environment Policy
Enrolment Policy	Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
Governance Policy	Sleep and Rest Policy
Hand Washing Policy	Work Health and Safety Policy
Health and Safety Policy	

Sources

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025).

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/Guide-to-the-NQF-March-2023.pdf>[Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. (2021). [Dealing with Infectious Diseases.](#)

Australian Government Department of Health Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

Department of Human Resources: [National Immunisation Program Schedule](#)

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations.](#) (Amended 2023).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2024). [Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early](#)

[childhood education and care services. 6th Edition.](#)

NSW Government. Department of Education. [Managing COVID cases](#)

NSW Government Department of Health. [Vaccination requirements for child care.](#)


Public Health Act 2010

Public Health Amendment Act 2017
Public Health Regulation 2012
Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 Victoria
Safe Work Australia

Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Scott Norris	DCEO	April 2025
POLICY REVIEWED	April 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	April 2027
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor maintenance to policy • Regulations, laws checked • Updated sources list and checked hyperlinks • Added Definition of Infectious Disease • Added resources list 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE
July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re write of policy • Hyperlinks checked and repaired as required. 		April 2025

Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris